

Commonwealth of Virginia  
Department of Social Services



**ONS TRANSMITTAL NUMBER** 08-05


**Date:** April 7, 2008

☐ ACTION ITEM

☒ INFORMATIONAL ITEM

**Subject:** VDSS Broadcast on Economic Stimulus Payments

**To:** ONS Resettlement Provider Directors

**From:** Kathy A. Cooper   
Virginia State Refugee Coordinator  
Virginia Office of Newcomer Services

**Contact:** [penny.boyd@dss.virginia.gov](mailto:penny.boyd@dss.virginia.gov) or 804-726-7933

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Attached for your information is Virginia Department of Social Services Broadcast 4840, Impact of Economic Stimulus Act Payments on VDSS Benefits.

It explains that economic stimulus payments sent to taxpayers and other eligible individuals by the Internal Revenue Service (in late spring or summer) will not be counted as income for state and federal assistance programs. This means that receipt of those payments generally will not affect receipt of public assistance.

*For those applying for assistance, this payment will not be counted as income.*

*For those currently receiving assistance, the client should report this payment to the local department of social services because: (1) it is important the client be in the habit of reporting all income changes; and (2) while the payment will not be counted as income in the month it is received, each program area (Food Stamps, TANF, and Medicaid) has different procedures regarding if and how any amount retained after the month of receipt is counted as a resource.*

**Important:** to receive an IRS stimulus payment, the refugee, asylee, Cuban/Haitian entrant, Amerasian, special immigrant visa holder, or victim of trafficking must file a 2007 tax return. If your office does not provide assistance with filing tax returns, no-cost assistance with filing a return is available: (i) through the IRS web site at <http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=177937,00.html>; and (ii) through other free tax preparation sources that can be found at <http://www.vaeitc.org/> including participating local social service offices.

Note: This and all ONS transmittals are posted at <http://www.dss.virginia.gov/family/ons/transmittals.cgi>

BROADCAST 4840

DATE: March 24, 2008

TO: Local directors, local and field benefit programs staff

FROM: Thomas Steinhauser, Director, Division of Benefit Programs  
Gail Nardi, Manager, Adult Services/Adult Protective Services  
Mary Ward, Child Care Subsidy Manager

TIME: 2:05 p.m.

SUBJECT: Impact of Economic Stimulus Act Payments on VDSS Benefits

CONTACT: [Benefit Program Consultants](#)

The Economic Stimulus Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-185) authorizes the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to issue economic stimulus payments to more than 130 million taxpayers. The payments will go out through late spring and summer. The law contains a special provision which requires economic stimulus payments to be disregarded as income when determining eligibility for Federal assistance programs. Additionally, the Virginia Department of Social Services and the Department of Medical Assistance Services have opted to exclude economic stimulus payments for two State-funded programs, General Relief and State and Local Hospitalization.

Economic stimulus payments are excluded from countable income in the month of receipt. Any amount of a payment that is retained is excluded from countable resources for the two months following the month of receipt. The programs to which these exclusions apply are:

- Auxiliary Grants
- Child Care
- Energy Assistance
- Family Access to Medical Insurance Security Plan (FAMIS) and FAMIS Moms
- Food Stamps
- General Relief
- Medicaid/FAMIS Plus
- Refugee Cash Assistance
- Refugee Medical Assistance
- State and Local Hospitalization
- Temporary Assistance to Needy Families

Some low-income workers with little or no tax liability, earning at least \$3,000 in qualifying income, may be eligible for economic stimulus payments. **Low-income workers who qualifying income above \$3,000 but do not have a regular filing requirement must file a 2007 tax return in order to receive the payments.** Also, individuals receiving Social Security, Railroad Retirement and/or Veterans' Affairs benefits may be eligible for economic stimulus payments. The IRS will be mailing information to these individuals informing them of their

potential eligibility for the payments. Information on free tax preparation assistance for low-income and moderate-income workers and the elderly, fact sheets, a payment calculator, and other helpful information is available on the IRS web site at:

<http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=177937,00.html>. Note that Supplemental Security Income (SSI) is not considered qualifying income for the purposes of the economic stimulus payment.

While these economic stimulus payments will be welcomed by many of us, they may be particularly helpful to the clients we serve. Your assistance with sharing this information with individuals who may benefit is greatly appreciated.

Please contact a [Benefit Program Consultant](#) if you have any questions about the information contained in this broadcast.